What is claimed is:

1. A method of identifying a shelf within a cabinet, said shelf carrying at least one item to be located by a user, said method comprising the step of causing a numeric display to flash a number that is the number of items to be located which are carried by the shelf.

2. A method, comprising:

entering user information into a processor controlling a dispensing cabinet;

said processor unlocking certain doors of the dispensing cabinet in response to said user information;

choosing a query mode;

identifying an item for which information is sought;

displaying information for the identified item;

logging off; and

locking the unlocked doors.

3. The method of claim 2 additionally comprising the step of entering patient information.

4. The method of claim 3 additionally comprising the steps of opening one of the unlocked doors, selecting a compartment, entering the number of items taken, and closing the opened door.

5. The method of claim 2 wherein said step of choosing a query mode includes choosing from among a dispense, locate, return, query and restock mode.

6. The method of claim 2 wherein said step of identifying an item for which information is sought includes one of picking an item from a pick list, inputting identifying information with a keypad, and barcode scanning.

7. A method, comprising:

entering user information into a processor controlling a dispensing cabinet;

said processor unlocking certain doors of the dispensing cabinet in response to said user information;

entering patient information into the processor;

choosing a query mode;

identifying an item for which information is sought;

displaying information for the identified item;

opening an unlocked door;

selecting a compartment;

identifying the number of items taken from the selected compartment;

displaying the number of items taken on a display;

closing the opened door;

logging off; and

locking the unlocked doors.

8.   The method of claim 7 wherein said step of choosing a query mode includes choosing from among a dispense, locate, return, query and restock mode.

9.   The method of claim 7 wherein said step of identifying an item includes one of picking an item from a pick list, inputting identifying information with a keypad, and barcode scanning.